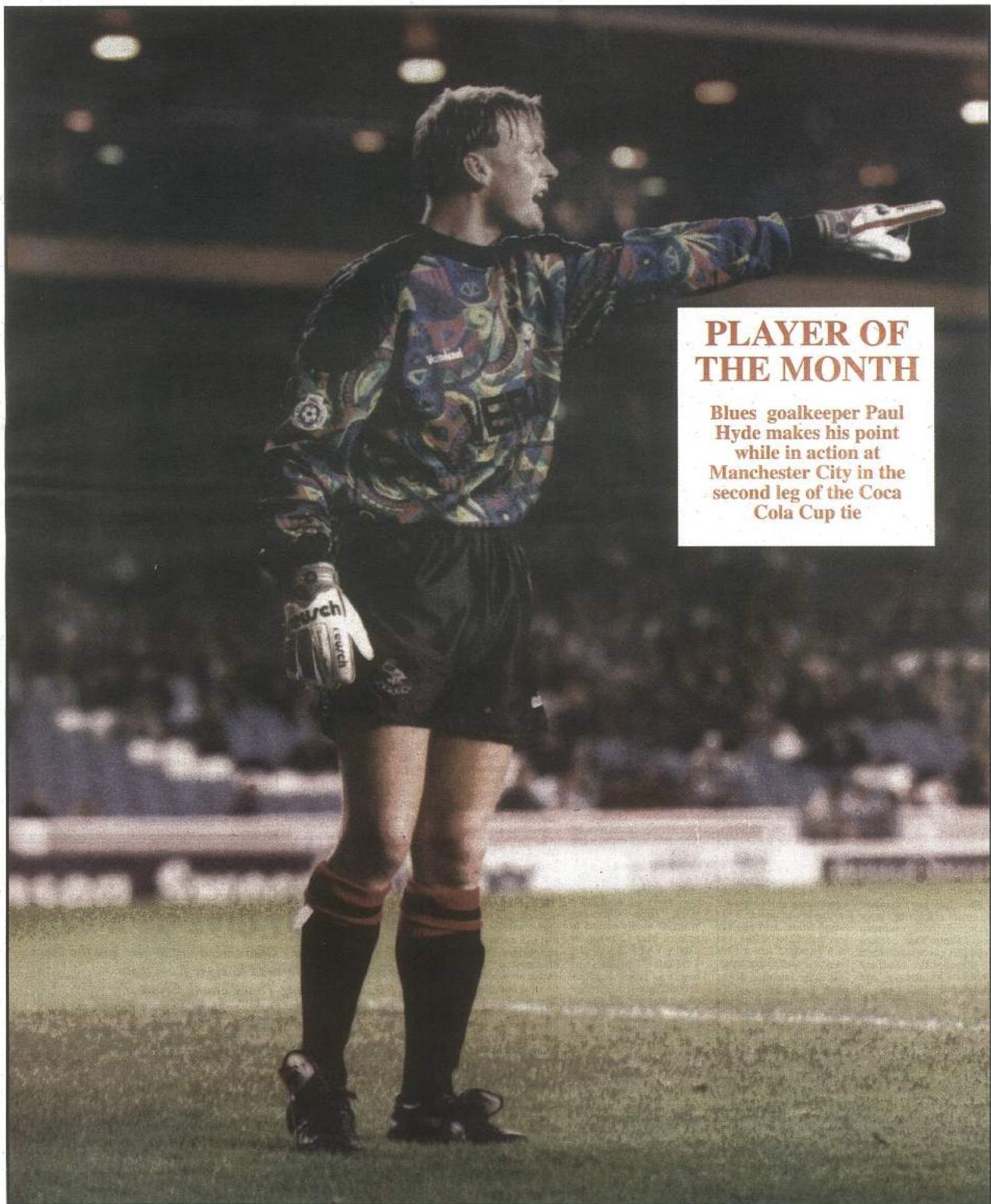


Issue No. 22, October 26, 1995

The BLUES NEWS

The official newspaper of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club



PLAYER OF THE MONTH

Blues goalkeeper Paul Hyde makes his point while in action at Manchester City in the second leg of the Coca Cola Cup tie

Blues' fans are vital

Time to build up Blue Army

THE 1995/96 season has already demonstrated how important the Blue Army is to any future success of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club.

In these recessionary times, it is not easy to attend every single home and away friendly, league and cup match.

However if Wycombe Wanderers are to pose a serious long-term threat to the upper reaches of the Endsleigh Insurance League, then they must attract crowds of 5,000 - 6,000 as last season, when 5,856 regularly paid to visit Adams Park.

Since then the uniqueness of Division II has worn off and Martin O'Neill has moved on.

The players are adjusting to a new system, prices have slightly increased and away support visiting Adams Park has dropped off.

Some of our home performances have not been as attractive as we would all wish to see and we have not had any big teams at Adams Park, unlike last season when Brentford visited Adams Park in September 1994, when 6,847 attended.

Unfortunately most of our big matches are in March and April 1996 including Swindon Town, Brentford, Burnley, Oxford United and Carlisle United.

Ironically we have already had our longest unbeaten run in the Endsleigh Insurance League, since gaining promotion to the Football League in 1992/93.

It is up to every football club who wants to attract large crowds, to offer value for money, play attractive football and most of all WIN!!

I believe at Wycombe Wanderers we have reached the point where we need to show our appreciation to our local fans.

This has to be balanced against attracting new (especially young) supporters to Adams Park, because we must encourage others to discover the excellent facilities we already have at Adams Park.

The Season Ticket Holder night on Tuesday October 31, is an attempt to show the club's appreciation to our local fans.



Young fans are Wycombe Wanderers' life-blood

tion, and at least a step in the right direction.

I hope the Board of Directors will agree to an even more attractive package for season ticket holders, so we can fill the new Family Stand in the New South Stand for the 1996/97 season.

A few Seat Season Ticket holders who chose to pay extra for their children to sit more centrally in the main stand this season have complained about some of our promotions to attract new fans.

They certainly have a point, but their children could have sat for only £5 a match in the Family Stand.

However next season they will have every opportunity to sit centrally in the lower tier of New South Stand and pay less than £216.00 (the cost of a Standard Junior Seat Season Ticket this season).

It is the intention of the club to offer existing 1995/96 season ticket holders first choice of the best seats.

We are fortunate at

Wycombe Wanderers to have supporters who feel strongly enough about their views to join a supporters' club.

One member of the Adams family recently

urged me for my attempts to get the Official Blues Supporters' Club to merge with the WWISC.

My viewpoint on our supporters clubs and magazines is simple. If their actions and words support the club, then they should be in turn be supported and encouraged to continue to do so.

I was delighted that the Adams Family recently kindly agreed to sponsor Gary Patterson for £200 + VAT, soon after the WWISC kindly agreed to sponsor Matt Crossley for £200 + VAT.

Of our 23 players, 13 have now been sponsored. The club needs all the support it can get and has not forgotten the £500 donation for the YTS Laundry from WWISC earlier this

season.

I hope the Blues Supporters' Club will be able to raise funds and support the club in a similar fashion.

I understand from my last chat with Bob Officer, (WWISC Chairman) that WWISC have nearly 200 members while the Official Blues Supporters' Club now has nearly 650 adult and junior members.

The elected committee of the Official Blues Supporters' Club has drafted an independent constitution and set of rules to be voted on at a General Meeting at 7.45pm on Thursday November 9 in the Keen Lounge at Adams Park, when Director Alan Parry will be the guest speaker.

One proposal is to rename the Official Blues Supporters' Club, who now hope to call themselves 'The Official Wycombe Wanderers Supporters' Association', and be known as 'The Blues Club' for short.

Hopefully the construction of the New South Stand will be something that will excite all existing supporters and create a momentum that will enable all supporters to get behind the players and give the encouragement and support they need to help this club to gain promotion to Division I.

Because of its constitution, Wycombe Wanderers can not succeed without mobilising the depth of support it enjoys throughout South Bucks and beyond.

I hope that Wycombe Wanderers supporters realise how important they are to the club and I for one would like to thank them all for playing a vital role in helping the club be so successful over the last 4 years.

Supporters' healthy interest in the Blues was recently emphasised by 569 turning up to watch Club Captain Terry Evans first Capital League match for 25 weeks.

This crowd was a record for Capital League matches at Adams Park.

With Supporters like this, Wycombe Wanderers clearly has a bright and promising future.

Special night

WYCOMBE Wanderers Football Club is holding an exclusive Season Ticket Night on Tuesday October 31 when York City visit Adams Park in the Endsleigh Insurance League Division II.

Every Wycombe Wanderers season ticket holder will be entitled to a free burger worth £1.60 from any of the tea bars at the stadium before 7.30pm on the night. All they have to do is produce their 1995/96 season tickets and present "Voucher P" from the back of their season ticket booklet to any tea bar before 7.30pm. This is in addition to our Members' Day in the New Year.

All 1995/96 season ticket holders can bring another person in at a reduced rate or for free on the night. Adult terrace season ticket holders will be able to bring another adult for £4.50 and OAP or child terrace season ticket holders can either bring an additional OAP OR an additional child in for free.

All 1995/96 seat season ticket holders can bring an adult into the Paddock area for £4.50 or bring an OAP or a child into the Paddock area for free on the night (space permitting).

The club expects to give away approximately 2,500 burgers if all 1995/96 season ticket holders take up the offer. Vegetarian burgers will also be available. Please ensure you claim your free burger as soon after the turnstiles open as possible to avoid disappointment.

Obviously, if all our season ticket holders arrive at 7.25pm there is no way we could serve them all before 7.30pm, so try to come early (i.e. by 7pm).

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OR COLIN RACKSTRAW ON

01494 521687

For a chat about the Blues...

Oh, and you could always arrange an interview to discuss your financial affairs (first meeting free)!

RACKSTRAWS

31 DASHWOOD AVENUE
HIGH WYCOMBE

HW

Green light for new 5,000 seater stand

WCMBE Wanderers' management team fans and players were celebrating success of the field.

Last month the Planning and Development Committee of Wycombe District Council agreed not to refuse Wycombe Wanderers Football Club's plan-

ning application for a new 5,000 seater South Stand and sent it to the Department Of The Environment for confirmation.

The plans had been discussed at length but the council gave the green light at a meeting in September.

The club has now received the

go ahead from the D.O.E. and expects the stand to be completed before the start of the next season.

The new South Stand will have approximately 1,500 Family Stand Seats, 50 Disabled places, 20 Executive Boxes and a large concourse area under the stand.

The Official Wycombe Wanderers Supporters Association
All enquiries: Keith Blagbrough (Secretary, O.W.W.S.A) 1 Allen Drive, Walters Ash, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP14 4SS. (01494) 563677
General meeting

This is a formal notice of a General Meeting of the Association to be held at Adams Park on the 9th of November, 1995 at 7.45pm in the Keen Lounge.

The reasons for calling this meeting is that at the Inaugural Meeting the committee elected at that meeting for their approval. Since this is a business meeting it will be for members only admission by production of your membership card.

Agenda
1) Welcome
2) Approval of the Constitution of the Association
3) Approval of the Rules of the Association
4) Election of five additional members to serve on the Committee (providing the constitution and rules are approved)

5) Any other business. We would like you to air your views particularly on the topics you would wish to discuss with the club, and also what you want from this Association.

6) Talk by Alan Parry - A Director of WWFC.
To join please contact the Secretary or fill in one of their application forms at the Commercial Offices at Adams Park.

Summarised constitution

Name
• The name of the Association shall be:

The Official Wycombe Wanderers Supporters Club Supporters Association, and for promotional Purposes The Blues Club.

Object and Purpose of the Association

- To organise the support of Wycombe Wanderers Football Club.
- To promote the interests of the supporters and organise trips to football matches and places of interest.

Membership
Membership of the Association will be open to Adults and Juniors (those under 16 as the date of joining or renewal), but will be selective. Every candidate for membership will submit an application form that will be considered by the Committee who will decide whether the candidate should be accepted.

Relationship with Wycombe Wanderers Football Club

The Association is independent of the Football Club.

For more information contact the Secretary on 01494 563677.

AARON PATTEN.

Youth team Player Of The Month

THE Youth Team player of the Month for September, sponsored by Lucozade Sport our Official Sport Drink sponsors, and chosen by Neil Smillie, Wycombe Wanderer's Youth Team Manager was

AARON PATTEN.

A presentation was made to Aaron Patten by Roger Vere, Joint Managing Director of Verco Office Furniture Ltd, our official Club & Youth Team Sponsors.

Our thanks to both Lucozade Sport and Verco Office Furniture Ltd for their ongoing and continuing support.

Membership available

THERE are still a number of Vere Suite membership places available for the remainder of the season. If anyone is interested in joining please go to the Commercial Offices at the front of the stadium to pick up an application form.



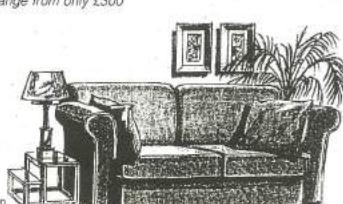
HIGH WYCOMBE'S NEWEST, BRIGHTEST LOUNGE SUITE SHOWROOM

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FROM THE BENCH BY ALAN SMITH

Power to the people

THE first thing I want to make clear for everyone is that the most important people in Wycombe Wanderers are the supporters.

It is vital that we come up with a package that is both new, fresh and exciting and that we are giving value for money and making Adams Park the place that you want to revisit time and time again.

I will be emphasising to the players that it is the supporters and sponsors who pay our wages and I can say that from my short time at the club I have found everyone enthusiastic and wanting to make this club something special.

Great emphasis will also now be put on our Youth policy and we have recently employed a new Youth Team Manager, Neil Smylie, and for the first time we have a Youth Development Officer in Jim Melvin.

Significant work will be put into getting the best players in the area to come to the club at an early age to play for Wycombe Wanderers.

This will be backed up by our Football on the Community Officer who will be coming into the local schools and clubs.

From the groundsman to the programme sellers and everyone who works at Wycombe Wanderers we want to make this something special and to have a package that makes coming to Adams Park a day out to remember.



VALUE for money men. Players David Farrell and John Williams

The club has had great stability over the years which is due to the Chairman and the Board of Directors, and the work that has been done here must be continued so that Wycombe can progress through the League rather like Wimbledon have done and survive in the Premier League, from such small beginnings.



WYCOMBE Wanderers' chairman Ivor Beeks presents John Simmonds with a cut-glass bowl in thanks for his service to the club.

At 71 years old, John has decided to retire as a club canvasser.

The presentation took place before the draw against Walsall which took the Blues to nine games unbeaten in the Endsleigh League Div 2

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A beer with Paul Hyde

Player of the month

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE THE SUPPORTERS' PLAYER OF THE MONTH?

Great. It's great that the supporters still like me after five years, I think I've had a good season so far, and things are going well for me.

DOES THE FACT THAT YOU'VE BEEN SO CRUCIAL TO WYCOMBE'S RESULTS OF LATE ADD TO THE PRESSURE?

It's been important that I've been on form so far this year - we've not scored the amount of goals that maybe we should have done, but we've defended well and although it does add pressure, when you're playing well, it's a nice pressure.

YOU'VE TAKEN A LOT OF STICK FROM OPPOSING FANS RECENTLY, HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH THE AWAY SUPPORT?

Against Fulham on Tuesday (in the Auto-Windscreen Shield) it was relentless. They got at me and got at me for the second 45 minutes, and you've got to take your hat off to them, that's what you want to hear when you're away from home. It's very intimidating, but for a goalkeeper concentration is a major factor and you've just got to concentrate on your own game.

IN THE HAYES VS BOURNEMOUTH MATCH

REVELLING in the double whammy of a victory over Walsall and being voted Player of the Month for September, Wycombe's inspirational goalkeeper, Paul Hyde, relaxes with a pint of Fosters and talks to Darren Bignell about football, oranges and women's underwear

THAT WAS TELEVISED ON MATCH OF THE DAY, YOU HAD A PARTICULARLY GOOD GAME, DO YOU ENJOY IT WHEN THE TV CAMERAS ARE THERE?

Obviously they want to see the goalmouth incidents, and it does add pressure, knowing the cameras are there. But with Wycombe these days, the harder games are the ones against lower league clubs.

REALLY?

Well, the boot's on the other foot. Being a second division team, we are now one of the top clubs that any non-league side could draw, and that is pressure, rather than when we play the likes of Norwich and West Ham, where we're still the underdogs.

HOW DO YOU USUALLY CELEBRATE A VICTORY?

I'll have a couple of pints of Fosters and then I'll go home - maybe get a takeaway - sit in and watch the football tonight, and spend the weekend with the wife and kids.

A POSSIBLE REAL-LIFE SCENARIO THEN: YOU'RE SHOPPING AT YOUR LOCAL SUPER-

MARKET, AND A DEAR OLD GRANDMOTHER IN FRONT OF YOU DROPS A BAG OF ORANGES, DO YOU:

A) DIVE FORWARDS AND SAVE THREE

ORANGES WITH ONE HAND?

B) VOLLEY AN ORANGE INTO AN IMAGINARY GOAL AND RUN AROUND CELEBRATING?

C) BUNDLE GRANNY OVER AND CLAIM SHE DIVED?

I think I'd probably dive instinctively and try to save Granny's oranges.

BUT YOU'VE OFTEN

Hyde makes his point

BEEN SEEN WARMING UP FOR MATCH BY NEARLY DECAPITATING SUPPORTERS AS YOU VOLLEY CROSSES INTO THE BET. WOULDN'T YOU PLAY UP FRONT IF YOU COULD?

I would love to, I used to be centre-forward before I became a goalkeeper. Nowadays you've got goalkeepers like Peter Schmeichel going up to corners, we're all frustrated centre-forwards at heart.

DOES THAT MAKE YOU MORE CONFIDENT WITH BACK PASSES?

Well, I'm quite comfortable with the ball - depending on what the conditions are like, obviously - but I'll take one touch if I can and then get rid of it. won't do a Chuck Mousaddi and try and dribble it out of the box.

OK, A FEW QUICK QUESTIONS: WHO'S THE BEST PLAYER IN THE PREMIERSHIP?

It's difficult to say, but I'm a Chelsea supporter myself, so Ruud Gullit.

SO WHO'S GOING TO WIN THE PREMIERSHIP CHELSEA?

No, Chelsea have got absolutely no chance whatsoever. Over the last few years I've enjoyed watching Liverpool and I hope they will.

WHO IS THE BETTER BAND, OASIS OR BLUR?

I like them both really. I'm not particularly fussed either way.

WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THE WONDERBRA?

Wonderful.

WILL YOU RETURN TO THE PRINTING AND ADVERTISING WORLD WHEN YOUR FOOTBALLING DAYS ARE OVER?

Well, unfortunately, I'd have to do something, so I'd probably look along those lines, and if I wasn't successful I'd maybe go into designing a new Wonderbra ...

Which company from

High

Wycombe, knows the

score

when it comes to financial planning?

To the Blues team-work is essential and so it is to AXA Equity & Law. With team-work stretching over 150 years, AXA Equity & Law is very well placed to help people achieve their financial goals.



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Free ticket with every purchase

WYCOMBE Wanderers Football club are offering one free concession ticket with every purchase from Wanderers in Town no matter how big or small.

The concession ticket, which has a face value of £4.50 can be used by either children under 16 or old age pensions for the forthcoming home match against Hull City which is on Saturday 28th October, 1995 at 3pm at Adams Park. Applies to any purchases made before 1pm on the day.

The free ticket with every purchase can only be claimed at Wanderers in Town which is situated opposite Littlewoods Store in the Octagon Shopping Centre.

C.W. WINDOWS

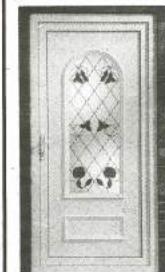
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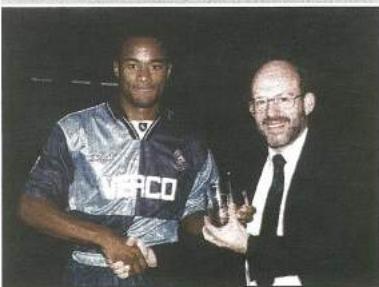


Oh! what a Cracker



DEREK Vere (left) joint managing director of club and youth team sponsors Verco Office Furniture Ltd, presents Lewis Cracker with the Lucozade Challenge Shield for being chosen as the Lucozade Sport Youth Team Player of the Month for August by Neil Smillie Youth Team manager. Chairman Ivor Beeks (centre) looks on.

The mighty Miguel



DEREK Vere (right) Joint MD of club sponsors Verco Office Furniture Ltd presents Miguel Desousa with his award for winning the August supporters Player Of The Month Award. Miguel scored 14 goals in his first 14 appearances for the club.

Singing the Blues

Have you noticed how quiet it's been lately?

Nestled in our little corner of South Bucks, the leafy valley that contains Adams Park used to ring with noise during a home match, and while the gentle swish of the wind in the trees is indeed pleasant and idyllic, I can't help thinking that the players might prefer a slightly more belligerent sound, writes Darren Bignell.

There was a time when the ground was the football equivalent of Telstar - a live, weekly compilation of soccer's finest ditties, all belted out with heart, conviction and a genuine desire to do your larynx some permanent damage.

And it made Adams Park a much feared venue. How many times did opposing managers describe it as a daunting place to visit? How many times did we hear Martin O'Neill say that the supporters had helped him out?

Now though, we seem to be experiencing a lull. The singing has become sporadic and easily silenced and if it wasn't for the hardy stalwarts in the Valley and Woodland terraces, might well have dried up altogether.

So what's happening? Well, circumstance has been the first factor, with club developments ruling out some old favourites.

The rousing chant of 'Martin O'Neill's sky blue army' that used to sweep around the ground is, you may have noticed, no longer appropriate. And while I am not for one moment disputing that Alan Smith's credentials are varied and impressive, the stark fact of the matter is that he's sorely lacking in the syllable department to the tune of one.

Equally the majestic Cyrille Regis's sad departure has robbed us of the rather jolly 'Nice one, Cyril' which was always good for a giggle, particularly when it was referring to incidents more unfortunate than nice.

If Alan Smith's had problems with injuries and absences, think of the difficulty it posed for the crowd. How long has it been since we last got behind the club captain with the punchy 'Ooh, Terry Evans'?

And even the opportunity to hail Wycombe's gruff grandmaster Simon Garner with 'Soo-pa, soo-pa Si' has been

denied of late.

It's not all bad, obviously - 'Blue Army' remains an unshakable regular, as does 'Come on, Wycombe, come on' and 'Chairboys - barny army'.

And the popularisation of the Go West tune by the Pet Shop Boys was a fine day for terrace tunesmiths everywhere, allowing the improvisational lyricist to create on the spot - from the standard '2-0 to the Wanderers' or whatever the scoreline happened to be, to the more inspired 'You're Welsh and you know you are' against the likes of Swansea and Wrexham.

Full marks must go to the Valley terrace too for maintaining a derisory howl following an opposing keeper's goal kick that, I'm willing to bet, outlasts any other team in the league.

And if all goes well against Walsall or the Auto-Windscreens Shield, we might even be able to blow the dust of 'Wem-ber-lee, Wem-ber-lee, we're the famous Wycombe Wanderers and we're going to Wem-ber-lee'. A little premature, maybe, but worth a run through just in case.

But perhaps the answer is to go back to the drawing board and come up with a few new numbers. Miguel Desouza is causing prob-

lems at the moment: do we adopt the 'Mi-quel Da-souza, Mi-quel Da-souza, Mi-quel' chant or opt for the more rare inspired 'Du-du-da-da-da-souz-ah'?

And what of the other players? Could Cliff's Mistleton and Wine tune have been applied to the sadly departed Wimbledon midfielder with the words: 'He played so fine, Stewart Castledine'? Immortalise our nonchalance defender possibly with 'Ferry Crossley Mersey'? (which doesn't admittedly make any sense, but I was pushed for time).

Are we going to have to resort to 'Hey, Patty Patty a-Patty-Patty-Patty-Patterson'? And is an alteration by dead poll the only way to get Alan Smith's name into a workable state?

One thing's for sure, whatever the lyrical content, it's important that the volume level rises, and that the players are aware of our presence. If we can beat up the noise at Adams Park, maybe we can regain our influence and help the lads onto a few more victories. Oh and if you've got any better ideas for chants - and let's be honest, it wouldn't be difficult - drop them into the office for my attention, and maybe we'll arrange a singing practice!



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All staff are fully trained with both customer service and safety in mind and all fireworks sold conform to British Standards and only come from leading suppliers.

FIREWORKS are pleased to offer suggestions for larger gardens, groups, pubs etc.

Whether you just want sparklers or a selection of fireworks for the family, the experts are pleased to help. Call 01494 450969.

Safety first on Bonfire Night

THIS Bonfire Night make it a night to remember for the right reasons and play it safe!

Fireworks when stored and handled correctly can be fun and safe.

When buying fireworks ensure they are suitable for you, your garden and the people who will be there. If the shop can't give you advice don't buy from them. Please don't embarrass your retailer by asking him to sell fireworks to children. It's illegal.

Aerial fireworks and rockets give a good display that everyone can see from the ground, but bangers and mines really aren't suitable for young children.

Never buy from a car boot sale or market stalls. Ensure that you only buy fireworks

which conform to British Standards BS7114. They are clearly marked.

Always follow the instructions provided with the fireworks. When lighting use a safety lighter or matches. Store fireworks in a sealed container and remove as you need them. Use a torch to see what you are doing. Never use a match or naked flame.

Never throw fireworks around or handle fireworks once lit. Never return to a firework that has not gone off

after being lit or lean over fireworks when lighting them.

Wear gloves holding sparklers. Never allow children to handle or light fireworks. Keep pets away. Remember alcohol and fireworks are a dangerous combination. Don't mix them.

So get advice before you buy, buy wisely and make it a safe bonfire night for all.

Thanks to FIREWORKS, 33 Frogmore, High Wycombe.

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Open 8pm-1am 11pm-1am
Over 21s

Wild Side meet with over 21s at Disco Theque Royal on Friday 27th October.

New bus service for Blues' fans

Plenty of room inside

FOUR new football special services are now in operation started and run from the areas below.

The specials will pick up at all the bus stops along the routes but will only take you to the ground. The specials will go to all home matches. Why not try out your new service?

Route A (Prestwood Travel) Departures Times Saturdays and weekdays.

The Common, Holmer Green

1330 1816

Park Parade

1335 1920

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Tyack Road/Totteridge Lane

1347 1832

Hollis Road

1349 1834

Hicks Farm Rise

1351 1836

Micklefield Road

1353 1838

Wycombe Marsh

1355 1840

Home Base, Hatters Lane

1400 1845

Wycombe Wanderers

Football Ground (arrive)

1415 1900

Return service departs from ground 15 minutes after final whistle.

Fare chart, return fares only.

The Common, Holmer Green

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Park Parade

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Tyack Road/Totteridge Lane

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Hollis Road

£1.00

Hicks Farm Rise

£1.00

Micklefield Road

£1.00

Wycombe Marsh

£1.00
Home Base, Hatters Lane
£1.00

Fans with a concessionary fare permit and under 16s travel at half fare.

Route B (Prestwood Travel)

Blind Lane, Green, Dragon

1320 1817

Bourne End, The Parade

1330 - 1815

Cores End Road

1334 1819

The Green

1339 1824

Boundary Road

1342 1829

Station Road

1344 1829

Rayners Avenue

1349 1834

Hatters Lane

1354 1839

Holiday Road

1355 1841

Totteridge Road/Healy Avenue

1358 1841

via Bowerdean

Road/London Road

1400 1841

Wycombe Wanderers

Football Ground (arrive)

1415 1900

Return service departs from ground 15 minutes after final whistle. Return fares only.

Bourne End, The Parade

£1.50

Cores End Road

£1.50

The Green

£1.50

Boundary Road

£1.50

Station Road

£1.50

Rayners Avenue

£1.50

Hatters Lane

£1.00

Holiday Road

£1.00

Totteridge Road/Healy Avenue

£1.00

Bowerdean Road
£1.00
Those with a concessionary fare permit and under 16s travel at half fare.

Wanderers' football buses

Route C (Motte Travel)

Departure Times.

Sat & Weekdays.

Blind Lane, Monks

Risborough

1340 1821

Studley Green

1323 1804

Stokenchurch, Kings Arms

1330 1811

Cadmore End

1340 1821

Lane End

1346 1829

Dean Street, Marlow

1356 1839

Britannia PH

1358 1841

Princes Risborough Market

1345 1820

Wiltshire Road

1356 1842

Marlow Bottom

1401 1844

John Hall Way, Tesco

1414 1854

Wycombe Wanderers

Football Ground (arrive)

1424 1904

Return service departs from ground 15 minutes after the final whistle.

Mill Lane, Monks

Risborough

£1.50

Piece Farm Way

1350 1834

Coombe Lane Bottom

1400 1839

Hughenden Avenue

1406 1841

The Pastures

1409 1844

Wycombe Wanderers

Football Ground

1425 1900

Departs from ground 15 minutes after final whistle.

Return fare only

Mill Lane, Monks

Risborough

£1.50

Piece Farm Way

1351 1830

Princes Risborough Market

1345 1820

Dean Street, Marlow

1356 1839

Britannia PH

1358 1841

Walters Ash, Parkwood

1401 1844

John Hall Way, Tesco

1414 1854

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1400 1839

Hughenden Avenue

New stand decision is good news but first we have a big hurdle to cross before we move forward....

Why are so many Blues' fans voting with their feet in '95?

THE decision to give the green light to the building of a new stand at Adams Park will prove to be a major turning point in the history of Wycombe Wanderers - in more ways than one.

Delighted as I am that Wycombe District Council said "yes" to our application for planning approval, I believe that the biggest hurdle has still to be overcome.

The council has shown a commitment to the club's future - but will the Wycombe public?

In building a new, state-of-the-art facility that will provide the ultimate in safety and comfort, the club's board of directors has responded to public demand.

We have been told many times that more people would come to watch our games if only we could provide them decent seats.

This season, attendances at Adams Park have been disappointing. Over the last five years, Wycombe's gates have risen dramatically, but they now appear to have levelled off.

Are the missing customers just waiting for the new seats to be installed?

The attendances graph for Wanderers' home games make interesting reading. In season 1989/90 - our last campaign at Loakes Park - we averaged 1,890. The move to Adams Park attracted an extra thousand 'new' fans to push the 1990/91 average up to 2,800.

In the season 1991/92, we fought Colchester all the way for the Conference title, saw attendances increase to an average of 3,606 and we improved on that in our promotion season, 1992/93, when we attracted 4,602.

In 1993/94 our first season in the Football League, we averaged 5,470 and last season, our first in Division Two, the figure climbed to 5,856.

So far in the current campaign, our average attendance for league games has fallen to around 4,700.

So what conclusions can be drawn? Clearly the move to a new stadium attracted a substantial number of new supporters to Wycombe Wanderers.

That number increased dramatically when the team became successful, winning promotion in successive seasons.

In the space of just five years, we attracted an extra 4,000 paying customers to our home games - a staggering achievement.

But why has that progress apparently been halted? Indeed, why have over a thousand of last season's regular customers stopped coming?

Viewing and catering facilities at Adams Park were improved during the summer, an experienced, high profile manager was recruited to

'Our loyal fans need to be treated with care and respect'

replace Martin O'Neill, new and expensive signings were made to strengthen the team - but gates have still fallen.

If I wanted to strike a pessimistic note, there's an argument for saying that we may have exhausted our potential in terms of support.

Perhaps there are no more than 5,000 people out there who want to watch Wycombe Wanderers on a regular basis, in which case, could the new stand turn into an expensive "white elephant"?

Naturally, I don't want to believe any of these arguments. I still have faith in the vision that this club will grow even bigger in the next ten years.

If gates can leap from 2,000-6,000 why not crowds of 10,000 and more? Surely there are thousands of potential supporters just waiting to be "converted" to the Wycombe cause.

But how do we find them? And - perhaps more to the point at the moment, how do we hold on to the supporters that we've already got?

A successful and entertaining team is always the most important criteria, but it's also the hardest to achieve. Improved facilities will help - that's why we are building the new stand - and we must always try to provide value for money.

The manager and players do their best to strike a balance between success and entertainment. The directors do their best to make Adams Park a comfortable stadium for watching football.

Even the local authority - sometimes a thorn in the side of the football club - has now shown a willingness to help. But, ultimately, the only people who can make Wycombe Wanderers grow bigger and better are the paying customers.

We have a hardcore of around 4,000 loyal supporters who I am sure would still be watching us if we were bottom of the league.

We must treat them with the care and respect they deserve for they are true fans. At the same time, we must find ways of attracting new spectators to Adams Park if we are to remain ambitious and set our sights on a higher division.

What is the answer, then? We'd like to hear your views. Are you a loyal fan who supports the team through thick and thin?

Have you stopped going to Adams Park - if so why? And what would persuade you to come back again?

Are you a potential spectator who is waiting for the new stand to be built?

Whatever your views, please write and tell us. You can't complain that the club isn't interested in your views if you don't take this opportunity to tell us!

Send your letters to me at the club and we'll print the best in future editions.

To get the ball rolling, here's a letter I have just received from Mr K R Miller of Stevenage, Herts.



By Alan Parry

Take care when deciding prices

I hear with interest and dismay that Wycombe have had planning permission approved for a 5,000 all seater stand.

I realise that for this club to move forward the stand has to be built. Bearing in mind that the country is still suffering from recession, would I be correct in thinking that to pay for this facility the spectator will have to pay more?

Would I be correct in thinking also that if the prices rise, through no fault of the spectators, the quality of the game as a whole will also improve?

I understand that the playing side has had a change of manager and that can cause standards to drop, but since Christmas 1994, when Martin was in charge, the entertainment value at Wycombe has been below standard.

For the last three years my wife and I have been season ticket holders, but this season we decided against it because 1) we could not afford the outlay and 2) the entertainment was poor.

I must add we did not miss one game last season. This season we have the choice that if the games are poor we will not attend.

We both realise money for players is tight, but still understand that players should be able to pass the ball to one another. I hope to see improvements on the field and get away from 'hoof' football.

May I suggest for one game at least you stand on the opposite side of the ground and listen to some of the comments made by supporters who are at the moment stand.

I know at least six people around me who did not renew their season tickets because of poor quality football.

We want to be entertained? Therefore, please think about the bread and butter supporter when pricing the seats.

Please could you explain how the reported £1.4m is to be financed as it is no good having a lovely stadium and no money to buy players.

May I close by saying that we both want to support Wycombe Wanderers in the future, but once again think very carefully when fixing prices next season.

I await your reply with interest.
MR K R MILLER

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Bad performances hurt the players as much as it hurts you but tenth place and two defeats is a reasonable position

I'm sure we'll be challenging by the end of the season

A great deal of work is being put in to ensure we are among the front runners

THE few letters I have recently received and the conversations with supporters all express their concern regarding our run of draws and lack of highly entertaining games.

The lads are aware that we have not been playing as well as they can, yet it is worth mentioning that it is just as easy to get into a habit of losing, something which sometimes tends to go unnoticed.

Of course, we want to entertain and win every game we take part in, but a great deal of hard work is being carried out to ensure that, by the end of the season, we will be one of the front runners.

I have mentioned in previous articles that all teams tend to go through a bad patch at some stage during the season.

If our period results in draws rather than defeats, I am sure it will all forgotten should we be flying high in the latter stages.

Playing for Wanderers we are always rightly reminded that it is the supporters who pay our wages and, therefore, we do always try to give value for money.

No player ever wants to go out and

produce a bad performance, believe me it hurts the individuals just as much as hurts you.

Your continued support is always very important to the lads - the number of supporters who travel to away fixtures is quite remarkable when we consider our size and league history.

The commitment and cost shown - especially for the many long distance trips up north - justifies your frustration and comments but two defeats and a position of tenth at the time of writing is not too bad with only 25% of the season gone.

It is fair to say that it could be better but I for one feel confident that your patience will be rewarded.

Defensively there are only four teams who have conceded fewer goals than



Captain's Log
by Terry Evans

ourselves and a great deal of this credit must go to Paul Hyde who has been outstanding in many games, richly deserving his player of the month award for September.

When I am playing, it is easy to take him for granted because as a shot goes flying towards goal, by the time I am able to turn, the save has already been made.

But from the sidelines it is much easier to see how well he is playing.

Regarding my own fitness I should have played a full game - for the reserves before this is published. My general fitness is good but match sharpeners will still take a little

time.

As a young player you never really worry about being out of the game for long periods. The odd knock may stop

you playing for a week or so but normally there is nothing more serious than that.

However, when you age a little and suffer a long-term injury, the recovery time is not only frustrating but also depressing especially if you suffer a set back.

As I mentioned before, it makes a big difference being involved with the squad, which has been very much appreciated, but there can never be any substitute for actually playing in a competitive game.

Supporters have told me on many occasions that they would gladly change their place on the terrace for a chance on the pitch but a doubt few would enjoy the prospect of a long fight back to fitness which both I and many other professionals have had to experience in the past.

Please don't get me wrong, I am not and never have been a whinger, I know what is expected and would not want to change my place with anyone.

But the work and effort required day after day to become ready for first team selection does sometimes get to us all. Fortunately, I can finally see light at the end of the tunnel.

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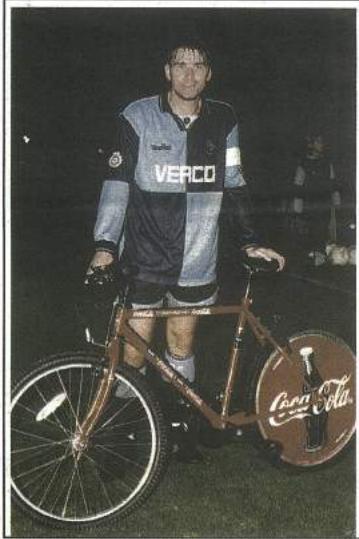
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● This'll help you get fit Terry! Man of the match Terry Howard with his brand new mountain bike

Happy Howard

TERRY Howard was delighted if not a little surprised to win a mountain bike after being voted Coca-Cola man of the Match by match sponsors HMC during Wycombe's 0-0 draw against Manchester City in the first leg send round of the Coca-Cola Cup.

Terry was awarded the Townsend Mountain Bike for his terrific defensive display and his captaincy.

Credit card a hit

More than 700 people have already applied for the WWFC Visa Card. This is a normal Visa Card with exclusive benefits to Wycombe Wanderers Supporters and also helps support the club.

Wycombe Wanderers Visa Card holders do not have to pay the £1 booking free when they book tickets on our credit card hotline. Even if you only book them occasionally the WWFC Visa Card will save you money - there is no annual fee and no other charges.

Many who already have credit cards get the WWFC Visa Card as well, as it saves them money at Wycombe Wanderers. MBNA International Bank Ltd who run the WWFC Visa Card scheme, pay the Blues a small commission of 0.15% on everything you spend without any cost to you.

On activation of the card the club receives £1 and on the anniversary of every active WWFC Visa Card the club will also receive £3, again without any cost to our supporters. There are many special events for WWFC Visa Card holders, such as the exclusive Cheese and Wine evening that was held in Wanderers in Town last week.

To obtain a WWFC Visa Card application form FREEPHONE 0800 776262 and please ensure you quote reference GT79 to ensure the club receives the activation fee.